

brought by the steamship Baltic, including the letter of our correspondence at Paris and London. The extra from a Liverpool correspondent on the destruction of Geyser will be read with interest. It is the first blast from the British press on a subject.

The New Policy with regard to Spain.

The appointment of Don Jose de la Concha to the government of Cuba, is a significant indication of an entire change of policy on the part of Spain towards this country. This important news, arriving on the same day on which Mr. Siskles returned to Europe with official replies to the despatches of Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Siskles, relative to the late movements in the Spanish peninsula, confirms the impression which now seems generally to prevail, that a sort of mutual understanding has already been established between the representatives of both governments. In fact, it is already openly given out by the friends of Gen. Pizarro's administration that the views of the latter with regard to Cuba will be modified to suit the altered aspect of affairs in Spain, so that, for the present at least, all projects for the acquisition of the island by purchase or by forcible seizure will be coldly looked upon and discouraged. That there are other means of arriving at the same end, and that those means have entered into the calculations of our government in the consideration of the instructions sent back through Mr. Siskles to our ministers at London, Paris and Madrid, future events will demonstrate.

We have always regarded the project of purchasing Cuba as visionary and impracticable. Degraded and discredited as Spain may have been by the profligacy of her court and the corruption of her successive administrations, we never yet could willingly admit the supposition that they would be so lost to all sense of shame as to be parties to so disgraceful a bargain. When, under the Polk administration, the offer of one hundred millions was made through Gen. Saunders, we indignantly refused, it was not likely that any other proposal of a similar character made under less favorable circumstances—that is to say, after the suggestion of the employment of force as the alternative—would be listened to for a moment. Such a proposition of the powers entrusted to them would have long since brought Sartorius and his colleagues to the miserable pass in which they now find themselves. What was difficult then has become impracticable now, under an administration which professes to consult only the honor and interests of Spain. Espartaco would never consent to barter for money one of the brightest jewels of the Spanish crown. What other price he may attach to it, if willing to alienate it at all, the progress of events in Europe alone will decide.

With a government established by the unanimous choice of the Spanish nation, and sympathizing, in political feeling, with the people of this country, all ideas of hostile action with regard to Cuba are, of course, equally out of the question. Such a government will not only find it congenial to its inclination, but to its interests, to satisfy every reasonable claim that we may have against it. As an evidence of its desire to conciliate the good feeling and friendship of the people of Cuba, the new ministry send out as Captain-General, Don Jose de la Concha, certainly one of the honestest men that have ever exercised authority in the island, and whose course in regard to the slave trade has always been marked by a desire to discharge the duties of his high office in a manner calculated to soothe and soften down any causes of irritation that might arise, from time to time, between Spain and the rest of the world. He was the first Governor of the island whose character and conduct placed him beyond the reach of suspicion. The appointment of such a man, at such a time, is therefore an earnest that an end will be at once put to the petty insults and annoyances that have created so much ill blood and angry feeling between Spain and the United States.

Whether, therefore, our objects with regard to Cuba are to be attained by a complete and thorough reformation in the system of aggression lately pursued by its government toward American interests, or whether the island is ultimately to fall into our possession in a manner which will neither lower the dignity of the Spanish people nor subject us to the imputation of employing force for the purpose of wresting from a weaker nation one of its most valuable possessions, both Spain and the United States can only benefit by the new line of policy inaugurated in the person of General Concha. If Cuba is to continue a dependency of Spain, there is certainly no one who will be more thoroughly disposed to carry out the conditions upon which alone the United States will consent to relinquish its designs upon it. If it is to be acquired by this country in the manner in which we have hinted just now, and which has not as yet assumed a sufficiently definite form to be more specifically alluded to, the administration of Concha under the new regime will have paved the way for the more ready assimilation of Cuban and American feelings and interests. Most of the prejudices and ill blood that have been so carefully fostered by the late Spanish officials in the island, will have by this time, if not wholly disappeared, at least have become greatly modified. In the meanwhile the mother country will have benefited largely by this improved state of things. Having no longer any hostile designs to apprehend on the part of the United States, she will be enabled to diminish the strength of the military and naval forces which she is now compelled to maintain for the defence of the island. The amount of revenue which she draws from it will be proportionately increased by this reduction of her present enormous expenditure, so that instead of being a source of embarrassment and apprehension, Cuba may ultimately become an element of strength to her.

To secure this prospect, it is evident that Spain will have to emancipate herself entirely from the state of tutelage in which she has been so long kept by the English and French governments. She must be either entirely won to or against us. If she means to hold on to Cuba, she must shake off the Anglo-French influence which has hitherto proved such a fruitful source of misery to her, and look for support in quarters where her sufferings will meet with sympathy and her liberal impulses with encouragement. Should she, however, entertain larger and broader views of the necessities of her position than can be satisfied by the restricted programme of her present administration, then Cuba will not be too dear a price to pay for that material support which she will require to assist her in maintaining her new institutions in the midst of the rivalries and jealousies that will be employed to subvert them in any event, it is to this country, and to this country alone, that Spain will have to look for the consolidation of her liberties.

The Saratoga Convention—A Split in the Camp.

The war whoop has been ringing through the camp of the Saratoga Convention on a bitter discussion of the merits of the two component sections of the new Northern party. Just as the Northern patriots were about to destroy the old whig and democratic parties, and raise Seward to the highest pitch of his ambition on a new platform, half the stanchions of the edifice gave way, and half the patriots turned to with a will to belabor the other half. The genuine orignal old free soilers of the Van Buren brand will not be led by the nose by Seward. "Puerile and impotent," says their organ, "has been the Saratoga Convention!" "Indignation and contempt" are the only sentiments it arouses. These are, no doubt, very just and proper reflections; but they come with peculiar grace from the very clique which made such heroic endeavors to set the "contemptible" movement on foot, and to rally a respectable show of speakers at the "puerile and impotent" convention. In the origin, the attempt to organize a Northern sectional party out of the excitement caused by the Nebraska bill, was made on joint account by whigs and free soil democrats. All the disappointed office seekers, all the broken down politicians, all the dislocated fragments of obsolete parties, and all the loose, idle and disorderly mob orators in the country jumped at the idea of a new platform on which they could assemble fraternally, and take the chances of something turning up in the shape of spoils. The preparatory meetings and polling committees contained Van Burinens and Sewardites, a straggle plank or two from the Albany Regency and a general omnium gathering of all sorts of grumbling philosophers and social revolutionists. Out of these heterogeneous materials, it was announced that the great Northern party was to be evolved. The only people in the plot who seem to have had a fixed purpose were the Seward men, who looked directly to the Presidency of their chief through the agency of the new action: the free soil democrats and their associates of all hues and stripes joined in the movement without any definite plan, trusting to chance affording them some recompense for their labors. They were ready to rebel, and to lend a hand in disturbing the country, even though the operation should involve a coalition with their old antagonists; but they took it for granted that if any victory was won, they should obtain their fair share of the plunder with the others.

These natural hopes have been dashed by the precipitancy of the Seward managers. The coalition had not been three hours in session before it was obvious that the latter intended to monopolize the whole points of the contest; and that, in plain words, the Northern party was destined to be nothing more than the old whig party under a new name and new colors, with William H. Seward at its head. Such was the haste and such the indiscretion of the agents employed by Mr. Seward that before the first day's session was over the mine was sprung, and the free soil democrats saw they had been entrapped. Their indignation may readily be conceived. The disgraceful brawl which took place within the walls of the convention were only a prelude to still more fierce ebullitions of temper without. Furious epithets are at this moment flying like hail between the disgraced free soil democrats and agonized Seward whigs.

The scene is altogether very fine and edifying. Here are a parcel of men who cry poignantly to Heaven against the sin of slavery, and with virtuous zeal call upon their countrymen to enroll themselves in a league whose object shall be to prevent the spread of the institution. Before they have been together three hours, they fall a quarrelling among themselves about the division of the booty they expect to capture. One party says that Seward and his friends must have it all. The other exclaims with remarkable truth—that such a scheme is a mere trick to resuscitate the whig party under new colors, and that if, as the resolutions state, old party distinctions are to be abolished, the spoils shall be divided among the whole band irrespective of early associations. This suggestion is hoisted by the whig majority, and the confederates split in high dudgeon and furiously savage with each other. Had either the whig or the democratic branch of the party been sincere, it could not have foundered on such a rock as this. Had the establishment of the free soil doctrine been their only object, it would have mattered little under what leaders that object was gained, and the first signs of a fight about the spoils would have met with general and peremptory reprobation. But as in fact the authors of the Saratoga Convention cared not one straw about the extension of slavery—as their sole aim was to organize a party that could carry the election of 1856, and command the spoils of the federal government for four years—the choice of leaders was in reality a paramount concern, and the division of the spoils the chief topic of debate. The grasping ambition of Seward and his partisans has precluded any understanding or accord on these points; and the democratic confederates have accordingly seceded, leaving the whigs alone in the field. The great Northern alliance is henceforth nothing but the defunct whig party galvanized into life under a new name.

Such is the net result of six months labor on the part of the Seward leaders. The excitement aroused by the Nebraska bill in certain sections of the country afforded them a fair opportunity of setting on foot a strong anti-slavery party, with ramifications extending into the temperance, women's rights and other local camps; and had they possessed one atom of sincerity in their denunciations of that measure and its principles, it is beyond a doubt that old party cal umnies and personal rivalries would not have been suffered to defeat the common aim. As it was, it turns out that their anti-slavery aspirations were the least trouble of their cares; the spoils, and the other rewards of political ambition were the real desiderata, and on these they split like many a similar faction. All experience shows that corrupt combinations for the purpose of obtaining power or booty are sure to fail at some time or other; some endure until the object of the coalition is effected, as in the case of President Pierce, and then dissolve and fight a record and disgraceful revelation; with others, the rupture follows so closely after the junction, that the very existence of the combination is left a matter of doubt. This has been the fate of the Saratoga Convention and the new Northern party. So tired were the leaders and so intent on their selfish designs, that they could not restrain their evil passions for a day, and shivered into fragments within a few hours after their union was consummated. The same telegraph announce

their fraternal embraces and their desperate broils. In one column of the newspapers we find a touching narrative of their avowal of party, in a other a spirited account of their partisan violence. Between the two factions into which they have split it is hard to choose. The preponderance of duplicity has been on the side of Seward; but his rivals have surpassed him in folly. Equally balanced in point of corruption and carelessness about principles, the whigs have proved their superiority in the art of deception, while the free soil democrats carry off the palm of cynicism. No blush overspread the cheeks of the latter when they boldly announced that all they sought was the spoils, and these being denied them they seceded from the movement; the whigs at least keep up the farce of pretending that they are not whigs, but Northern anti-slavery agitators. The pitiful disguise of a name will hardly do them much good at the elections.

OUR NAVAL STEAMERS—THE SAN JACINTO DISABLED.—The inadequacy of the steam frigates attached to the United States navy to the requirements, has been the cause of a great deal of trouble, expense and annoyance to the government during the past ten years. From the year 1813 up to the present time, the Navy Department has been engaged in a series of experiments in steamers; and of the twenty-six vessels of this class which have been built or altered for naval purposes, but two—the Mississippi and the Powhatan—have been satisfactory and successful. We have now to add another casualty to the already overflowing list. The San Jacinto is one of the new steamers, and was recently fitted for a cruise in the Baltic, to protect American interests in that quarter. She sailed from Philadelphia on this cruise on the 12th inst., and on the 19th she put into the port of Boston disabled. The accident was one of the worst that could have happened. Her bed-plate is broken, and her machinery must all be taken out. This will require several months time, and the Baltic cruise must be given up. The San Jacinto is a propeller, and is worked with two "square" engines, with inclined cylinders and vertical air pumps. These engines are very irregular in their action—their friction is great; they are constantly liable to fracture and difficult to keep in order or repair. Such was the testimony of the Chief Engineer of the United States Navy, placed on record in 1853. The propeller has been twice altered; the engine was disabled on the first trip. The greatest speed ever obtained by this vessel was nine miles an hour.

The San Jacinto was built at Brooklyn, and launched in June, 1850. She is bark-rigged, and her armament consists of two eight-inch pivot guns, and four eight-inch broadside guns. The first cost of the San Jacinto's machinery was over two hundred thousand dollars; but we really could not say how much money has been spent on it since. We have been thus particular in the case of the San Jacinto, because the same story, with an alteration of dates, will answer for nearly every steamer in the United States navy. Our naval constructors do not seem to have discovered the secret of building steam vessels to carry armaments, and it is time that the contracts were given to others more able in practice and more prudent in their ideas. Our navy is not so large that we can afford, in these troublous times, to lay up a first-class steam frigate during two or three months, and we should have ships upon which some reliance can be placed. The accident to the San Jacinto is an unfortunate affair, we shall be told; but carelessness had more to do with the matter than accident. Government was told a year ago by its engineer-in-chief, that the San Jacinto's engines were constantly liable to fracture. And yet she was ordered to the Baltic as a specimen of American naval architecture, and to watch over American interests in that delicate region.

All these matters are important just now, partly because we may be plunged into war at short notice, but chiefly because six new steam frigates are to be built immediately. We hope that the people will get something for the three millions which will be spent on these vessels, and that they will be creditable to the service.

Musical and Dramatic Matters.

ARRIVAL OF ORISI AND MARIO—NO PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION—OPENING OF THE BROADWAY THEATRE.—MR. HENRY FARRER—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC ITEMS.

Mrs. Grist and Signor Mario arrived here on Saturday afternoon, in the steamship Baltic. The contemplated excursion to meet them did not take place, because the Baltic made an unusually rapid passage. The artists, with their "staff," proceeded to the St. Nicholas Hotel, where elegant apartments had been provided for them. Mr. Hackett, the manager of the troupe, also arrived in the same ship. There is a great deal of anxiety felt by the entire public as to the plan of the season, which was announced to commence at Castle Garden on the 4th September, and it is stated that Grist and Mario will appear in a grand opera, the seats being sold at five dollars each, as a fixed price. We presume that the public will be made aware of Mr. Hackett's intentions in ample season for all practical purposes. The opening of Castle Garden by these artists will be a happy inauguration of the very brilliant and lively theatrical season which is before us. The Broadway theatre, at present the only one for the regular season, which is before us, is a happy inauguration of the very brilliant and lively theatrical season which is before us. The Broadway theatre, at present the only one for the regular season, which is before us, is a happy inauguration of the very brilliant and lively theatrical season which is before us.

The play requires very good acting and a minute attention to detail to make it successful. Mr. John R. Scott has drawn excellent houses at the National, and his bold, vicious style of acting nightly awakens the enthusiasm of his audience.

Mr. Barton, with a portion of the Chambers street company, has been playing alternate nights to the Royal Family, at Niblo's, and has drawn full audiences. The opera season is drawing to a close. This evening is set apart for the benefit of Signor Graziani, the baritone, when the "Puritani" and an act of "Torquato Tasso" is announced. On Wednesday the "Grand Lyric Festival" for the benefit of Max Martzke and Madame Bertinica Martzke, the worthy director is universally popular, and is deserving of a great house. Many seats, we hear, are already taken, and we have no doubt that Castle Garden will present such an array of beauty and fashion on Wednesday as will gladden the heart of the *impreario* and send him on his way to Philadelphia rejoicing. The German Liederkreis Society celebrated the "Summer Night's Musical Festival" at Clifton Park, Staten Island, on Saturday night. The complimentary benefit to Mr. Florence and wife, at Niblo's, on Saturday night, was a successful affair as far as numbers could go to make it so, the house being two-thirds filled. The best performance of the night was Howard Payne's comedy of "Charles the Second," Messrs Scott and Perry being excellent in the parts of Captain Copp and Charles. Mr. Duffield, late of the St. Charles theatre, has taken the stage management of the theatre at Charleston, S. C., and is now in New York, engaging a stock company.

Mrs. Farrer will shortly play an engaging act at the Bowery theatre. Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Davenport have returned to New York, after a successful Western tour, and they are engaged at the Walnut street theatre, Philadelphia. Mr. Humphrey Blood, formerly of the Park and Broadway theatres, is engaged at Wallack's theatre for the next season. Mr. William Niblo arrived on Saturday, by the Baltic, and it is stated he has secured several novelties for the Garden.

After some delay, the donation of five hundred dollars made by Mr. Barney Williams to the Washington Monument fund has been paid into the treasury of the society. We were obliged to direct the attention of the proper authorities three times to the fact that the money was in the hands of the editor of the Herald, awaiting their order. Mr. Williams, the general agent, drew on us for the amount, and the draft was paid. The following is a copy of the document:—

WASHINGTON, August 18, 1854.

On demand, pay to the order of Messrs. Riggs & Co., for value received, five hundred dollars.

Amount contributed by Barney Williams to Washington Monument.

ELISHA W. WHITELEY, General Agent.

To JAMES GORDON BENNETT, Editor of the Herald, New York.

Mr. Williams and wife will sail for San Francisco in the mail steamship which leaves this port to-day.

The entertainments offered for this evening may be summed up as follows:—

At the Broadway theatre "The Lady of Lyons," and "A Lover by Proxy," Mr. Henry Farrer and Miss Louisa Howard in the principal parts, supported by the stock company.

At Castle Garden, "I Puritani," and "Torquato Tasso," for the benefit of the popular baritone, Signor Graziani.

At Niblo's Garden, the Ravala and Mlle Yrca Mathis in their light, agreeable and popular entertainments.

At the Bowery theatre, Miss Susan Denin commences an engagement of six nights, and plays Margaret Emory in "Love's Sacrifice." Mr. Robert Johnston as Matthew Elmore.

At the National theatre, Mr. J. R. Scott appears in a favorite drama, and two light pieces will be acted.

At Barnum's Museum, popular entertainments will be presented this afternoon and evening.

At the Hippodrome the visitors will be amused with a five mile foot race, in addition to the usual attractions.

Excellent programmes are put forth for this evening by Wood's and Buckley's Minstrels. Mr. Wood opens Christy's old hall, 472 Broadway, with a new company, this evening. The hall No. 444 Broadway, will also be open as usual.

PHILADELPHIA.—The Arch street theatre was opened for the season on Saturday night last. During the summer vacation extensive and desirable improvements have been made in the interior of the building. The orchestra stalls have been enlarged and the seats covered with red plush. The old and inconvenient entrance ways have been closed and broad doorways opened nearer the stairs leading into the boxes. The seats in the boxes and second tier have been altered and covered with fine Wilton carpet. The second and third tiers have been entirely renovated and improved. The private boxes are newly furnished and curtained. The fronts of the first, second and third tiers have been decorated with richly gilt ornaments. The chandeliers have been burnished, and the entire theatre painted, and carpeted in elegant style. Mr. John Wain has just finished a beautiful new curtain representing the Paradise of Mahomet. "Maze" was the opening play. Max Martzke will open the Chesnut street theatre on the 25th of this month, with his opera troupe, for a season of four weeks' duration, during which will be produced "Mazzeuolo," "Puritani," "Marie de Rban," "Lucia di Borga," "Lucia," "Norma," "Lout-e Miller," and "Rigoletto," the last two never having been given entire in this city. The Walnut will open for the regular season on Monday evening, 25th inst. The house has been thoroughly cleaned, painted, and newly carpeted. Mr. John Sefton continues in the post of stage manager, which he has so ably filled. But few alterations have been made in the company. The opening attraction will probably be Mrs. Caroline Richter and Mr. P. Riccagno. The City Museum is the title of a new place of amusement which will shortly be opened in this city. It is located upon the north side of Calverhill street, between Fourth and Fifth streets. The lower floors of the building are devoted to the purposes of a museum proper. According to a reliable source, we learn that the theatre, containing a parquette and two tiers of boxes, capable of accommodating nearly three thousand persons, the stage is thirty feet in width, and fifty feet deep. The width of the parquette is fifteen feet six inches. From the stage to the back wall of the parquette measures seventy-one feet. Messrs. Ashton & Co.,